

AS a retired member pf the broadcast community (NBC-TV). I am really worried about the turn of events that allow broadcasters to put thier bussiness interest ahead of the public interest. the airways were allocated for no cost inorder to insure that nations interest be first. I MAY BE NOW TIME TO SELL THE SPECTRUM SPACE TO THOOSE COMPANIES THAT MONEY MATTERS MORE THAN COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND TO GIVE FOR FREE THE SPECTRUM TO THOSE COMPANIES THAT PLEDGE TO BROADCAST IN THE PUBLIC INTEST.

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.